The Urban District Council of Aberdare

# Annual Report

of the

## Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR, 1945

by

T. H. STEPHENS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

"Leader" Office, Aberdare.

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## HEALTH COMMITTEE

DAY OF MEETING — Last Tuesday in each month at 7 p.m.

### MEMBERS

Councillors L. J. Scourfield *(Chairman)*, W. D. James, T. Powell, T. G. R. Phillips, D. J. Morse, James Williams, Thos. Meredith, Trevor Williams, A. T. M. Wilson, Evan E. Jones, Mrs. M. Morris, J. Lynch, and ex-officio the Chairman of the Council, Councillor D. Rees Jones and the Vice-Chairman, Councillor Wm. Lawrence.

THE MATERNITY AND INFANT WELFARE COMMITTEE is composed of the members of the Health Committee, together with Mrs. M. A. Morgan, 247, Cardiff Road, Aberaman.

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*To the Chairman and Members of the Aberdare Urban District Council*

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,

ROCK GROUNDS.

Madam and Gentlemen,—

In accordance with Article 14 (3) of the Sanitary Officers' Order of 1926, I beg to submit my report for the year ended December 31st, 1945. The report is written on the lines suggested by the Ministry of Health, and compared with previous years, is, in accordance with their wishes, a very brief one.

### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Assistant Medical Officer of Health & Assistant School Medical Officer. | Elizabeth A. Marsden, M.B., Ch.B., Aberdeen. |
| Orthopaedic Surgeon (part-time). | J. Berry Haycraft, M.B., Ch.B., Edin., F.R.C.S., Eng., Surgeon to the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Cardiff ; Assist. Surgeon, Royal Infirmary, Cardiff. |

| | |
|---|---|
| Surgeon for the Operative Treatment of enlarged Tonsils & Adenoids (part-time). | Harry Banks, M.B., Dub., F.R.C.S., Edin. |
| Dental Surgeons ... ... | W. Trevor Flooks, L.D.S.<br>Kurt Herzfeld, D.M.D. |
| Medical Officer of the Birth Control Clinic (part-time). | Sybil M. Morgan, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., Lond. |
| Sanitary Inspectors ... ... | John Thomas, *Senior Inspector.*<br>Daniel Lewis.<br>Daniel Richards.<br>Trevor Walters. |
| Matron of the Small Pox Hospital, Fedw Hir. | Florence Paddock. |
| Chief Clerk ... ... ... | Trevor J. Hopkins. |
| Junior Clerk ... ... ... | W. G. Davies (joined H.M. Forces, 15/3/40). |
| " " ... ... ... | J. Palmer (joined H.M. Forces, 1/7/41). |
| Clerk (temporary) ... ... | D. R. Williams.<br>E. S. Evans. |
| Junior Clerk ... ... ... | N. Jones (joined H. M. Forces, 5/11/42). |
| " " (temporary) | Miss M. A. Pugh (commenced duties, 31/7/42). |
| " " (temporary) | Miss M. Williams (commenced duties, 4/8/43). |
| Health Visitors ... ... ... | Dorothy Walker.<br>Kate Howlett.<br>E. M. Abraham.<br>A. M. Cuddigan.<br>P. J. Airdrie (terminated duties, 22/4/45). |
| (temporary) | E. Lloyd (commenced duties 4/8/45). |
| Orthopaedic Nurse ... ... | Kate Howlett. |

The following is a synopsis of the vital statistics for the year:—

*Census population curtailed in the interests of National Security*

| | |
|---|---|
| Birth Rate ... ... ... ... ... ... | 15.6 |
| Crude death rate ... ... ... ... ... | 14.1 |
| Corrected death rate ... ... ... ... | 15.2 |
| Infantile mortality rate ... ... ... ... | 46 |
| Diarrhoea death rate (under two years) ... ... | .10 |
| Respiratory death rate (excluding phthisis) ... | 1.6 |
| Phthisis death rate ... ... ... ... ... | .43 |
| Other tuberculous diseases death rate ... ... | .02 |
| Cancer death rate ... ... ... ... ... | 1.8 |

## RATEABLE VALUE

The rateable value is £156,371, and a penny rate produced £578 17s. 10d.

## INSURED POPULATION

Out of an insured population of 16,150, the number unemployed was 1,856. The following table shows the various occupations of the people employed:—

| Males | | Females |
|---|---|---|
| 519 | National and Local Government | 1119 |
| | Professional Occupations & their Subordinate | |
| 21 | Services | 53 |
| 46 | Hotel and Catering | 334 |
| 517 | Distributive Trades | 669 |
| | *Conveyance of Men, Goods & Messages:* | |
| 115 | *(a)* Railways | 32 |
| 88 | *(b)* Others | 2 |
| 93 | Agriculture | 6 |
| | *Mines and Quarries:* | |
| 4632 | *(a)* Coal Mines | 133 |
| 73 | *(b)* Quarries | |
| 111 | Building | 2 |
| 109 | Brick, Cement, Pottery and Glass | 1 |
| 71 | Gas, Water, Electric Supply & Sanitary Service | 1 |
| 367 | Chemicals, Explosives and Grease | 700 |
| 870 | Other General & Undefined Workers & Dealers | 414 |
| 2267 | General Engineering | 2785 |
| 9899 | Totals | 6251 |

## DEATHS

Five hundred and fifty-two deaths actually occurred in the district, giving a crude death-rate of 14.1.

The crude death-rate only takes into consideration the deaths which actually occurred in the district.

Sixty-eight residents died in other districts, giving a corrected death-rate of 15.2.

The death-rate per 1,000 living for England and Wales for the year 1945 was 11.4 ; for the 126 great towns, 13.5 ; for the 148 smaller towns (census population, 25,000—50,000), 12.3, and for London, 13.8.

## CAUSES OF DEATH

| | | *M.* | *F.* |
|---|---|---|---|
| | All causes | 344 | 247 |
| 1. | Typhoid and parat. fevers | — | — |
| 2. | Cerebro-spinal fever | — | — |
| 3. | Scarlet fever | — | — |
| 4. | Whooping Cough | — | — |
| 5. | Diphtheria | — | — |
| 6. | Tub. of resp. systems | 12 | 5 |
| 7. | Other forms of Tuberculosis | 1 | — |
| 8. | Syphilitic diseases | 1 | 2 |
| 9. | Influenza | 8 | 5 |
| 10. | Measles | — | — |
| 11. | Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis | — | — |
| 12. | Acute inf. encephalitis | — | — |
| 13. | Cancer of b. cav. and oesoph (M.), uterus (F.) | 3 | 7 |
| 14. | Cancer of stomach and duodenum | 14 | 6 |
| 15. | Cancer of breast | — | 4 |
| 16. | Cancer of all other sites | 23 | 16 |
| 17. | Diabetes | — | 2 |
| 18. | Intra-cran. vasc. lesions | 46 | 42 |
| 19. | Heart disease | 101 | 76 |
| 20. | Other diseases of circulation system | 2 | 2 |
| 21. | Bronchitis | 24 | 7 |
| 22. | Pneumonia | 9 | 10 |
| 23. | Other respiratory diseases | 15 | 1 |
| 24. | Ulcer of stomach or duodenum | 3 | — |
| 25. | Diarrhoea, under two years | 2 | 2 |
| 26. | Appendicitis | 2 | 2 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 27. | Other digestive diseases ... ... ... | 2 | 4 |
| 28. | Nephritis ... ... ... ... ... ... | 9 | 6 |
| 29. | Puerperal and post-abortive sepsis ... ... | — | — |
| 30. | Other maternal causes ... ... ... ... | — | 2 |
| 31. | Premature Birth ... ... ... ... ... | 5 | 4 |
| 32. | Con. maltruition, birth injury, infantile disease | 5 | 2 |
| 33. | Suicide ... ... ... ... ... ... | 1 | — |
| 34. | Road traffic accidents ... ... ... ... | 5 | 2 |
| 35. | Other violent causes ... ... ... ... | 9 | 1 |
| 36. | All other causes ... ... ... ... ... | 42 | 37 |

## BIRTHS

There were registered during the year 606 births (303 males, 303 females), the rate per 1,000 being 15.6 as compared with 17.3 for last year.

The birth-rate for England and Wales for 1945 was 16.1, of the 126 great towns (including London, census populations exceeding 50,000, 19.1 of the 148 smaller towns (census populations 25,000 to 50,000), 19.2 and of London 15.7.

The legitimate birth-rate per 1,000 of the population was 14.8 and illegitimate .72.

The still-birth rate per 1,000 of the population was .43.

## ILLEGITIMATE BIRTHS AND DEATHS

There were 28 illegitimate births, and two deaths occurred among these children.

## MARDY ISOLATION HOSPITAL, MERTHYR

During the year 10 cases of diphtheria, 26 of scarlatina, 4 of cerebro-spinal fever, 2 of paratyphoid B, 8 of dysentery, and 1 of erysipelas were removed to the above hospital.

## MARDY ISOLATION HOSPITAL, MERTHYR

*Expenditure for the year ended 31st March, 1945 :*

Aggregate number of days spent by patients in hospital ... ... ... ... ... ... 2029

Cost of isolation and treatment ... ... ... £416/3/8
Number of patients admitted ... ... ... ... 62

J. L. THOMAS,

42/43, High Street, Aberdare. *Accountant.*

## NUTRITION

We continued to distribute leaflets at the Infant Welfare Centre and the School Clinic.

## SCHOOLS

For particulars with regard to schools, the reader is referred to the report made to the Education Committee.

## NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

During the year 380 notifications were received, distributed among the different wards as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Llwydcoed ..... | 118 | Gadlys ..... | 63 |
| Town ..... | 48 | Blaengwawr ..... | 44 |
| Aberaman ..... | 107 | | |

The number 380 is constituted as follows:—Diphtheria, 10 ; erysipelas, 11 ; scarlet fever, 69 ; cerebro-spinal fever, 4 ; paratyphoid fever, 2 ; puerperal pyrexia, 5 ; ophthalmia neonatorum, 4 ; dysentery, 13 ; pneumonia, 58 ; pulmonary tuberculosis, 63 ; non-pulmonary tuberculosis, 14; measles, 117; and whooping cough, 10.

## SCARLATINA

There were 69 notifications of the above disease, distributed as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Llwydcoed ..... | 10 | Gadlys ..... | 8 |
| Town ..... | 8 | Blaengwawr ..... | 16 |
| Aberaman ..... | 27 | | |

The number of infected houses was 67, and of these two had more than one case.

The disease was of a very mild character.

The death-rate for England and Wales was 0.00, that for great towns 0.00, that for the smaller towns 0.00, that for London 0.00, and that for Aberdare 0.00.

## DIPHTHERIA

Ten notifications were received, the ward distribution of these cases being as follows:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Llwydcoed ..... | 1 | Gadlys ..... | 4 |
| Town ..... | 3 | Blaengwawr ..... | 1 |
| Aberaman ..... | 1 | | |

There were nine infected houses, and one of them had more than one case.

The death-rate per 1,000 of the population was nil, as compared with .02 for England and Wales, .02 for the great towns, .02 for the smaller towns, and .01 for London.

## TUBERCULOSIS

During the year 63 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and 14 of tuberculosis of other regions were notified.

The sub-joined table, prescribed by the Ministry of Health, gives the age and sex distributions of persons notified as suffering from the disease and of those who died from it :—

| | NEW CASES | | | | DEATHS | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
| | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| 0 .. .. .. | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 1 .. .. .. | — | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| 5 .. .. .. | 2 | 1 | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | — |
| 10 .. .. .. | 2 | 3 | 2 | 2 | — | — | — | — |
| 15 .. .. .. | 2 | 8 | — | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| 20 .. .. .. | 3 | 5 | — | 1 | 2 | 2 | — | — |
| 25 .. .. .. | 13 | 5 | 3 | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | — |
| 35 .. .. .. | 8 | 3 | — | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — |
| 45 .. .. .. | 5 | — | — | 1 | 4 | — | — | — |
| 55 .. .. .. | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| 65 (and upwards) .. | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Totals .. | 37 | 26 | 6 | 8 | 12 | 5 | 1 | — |

The health visitors paid 1,965 visits to patients suffering from tuberculosis.

At the end of the year there were 246 males and 251 females on the register, and of these 300 were found to be in good health, 150 in fair health, 19 in the same condition as they were in when notified, and 28 were in sanatoria.

It was found that 130 males were working regularly, 31 unemployed, but fit for work, and 44 were unable to work.

## PNEUMONIA

Fifty-eight cases of the above disease were notified, and the death-rate per 1,000 population was .48.

All these cases were visited, and suitable literature supplied to those in attendance on the patient.

## PUERPERAL PYREXIA

Five cases of puerperal pyrexia were notified and all recovered.

The notification rate per 1,000 births (live and still) was 8.0.

## OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM

Four cases occurred, and recovered with unimpaired sight.

## MEASLES

There were no deaths registered as having been due to the above disease.

The death-rate for England and Wales was .02 ; for the great towns, 0.2 ; for the smaller towns, .02 ; for London, .01 ; and for Aberdare, nil.

## NON-NOTIFIABLE DISEASES

### *Influenza*

Thirteen deaths were caused by the above disease. The death-rate per 1,000 population was .33, as compared with .08 for England and Wales ; .07 for the great towns ; .07 for the smaller towns, and .07 for London.

*Diarrhoea and Enteritis*

Four deaths were attributed to this cause.

The death-rate for England and Wales per 1,000 births was 5.6; for the great towns, 7.8; for the smaller towns, 4.5; for London, 7.6; and for Aberdare, 6.6.

## MIDWIVES' ACT, 1902

## MIDWIVES' ACT, 1936

Notifications from midwives of their intention to practise:

| | |
|---|---|
| (a) Resident within the district ... ... ... ... | 27 |
| *(b)* Resident outside the district, but practising inside ... | Nil |
| The number of the above who were enrolled in virtue of having been in practice previously to 31st July, 1901 | Nil |
| Number holding certificates in midwifery from institutions or societies recognised by the Central Midwives' Board ... ... ... ... ... ... | 27 |
| Nurses who have ceased practising (deaths) ... ... | Nil |
| Nurses who have ceased practising ... ... ... | Nil |
| Nurses who have ceased practising (removed from the district) ... ... ... ... ... ... ... | 5 |
| Notices received of sending medical aid ... ... | 294 |
| Notices received of still-births from midwives ... ... | 17 |
| Midwives removed from midwives' roll owing to gross negligence in their duties ... ... ... ... | Nil |
| Visits paid to midwives at their houses to inspect bags and registers ... ... ... ... ... ... | 200 |

For midwifery purposes, the urban area is divided into six districts, and there are seven permanent nurses and two temporary ones employed by the Council.

Sixty-three live-births and one still-birth were dealt with by the independent midwives, as compared with 386 live-births, eight still-births, two miscarriages and ten abortions attended to by the municipal midwives.

One hundred and twenty-eight live-births and six still-births were dealt with at the General Hospital.

## ANTE-NATAL CLINIC

Three hundred and forty-nine patients attended the clinic, the number of attendances being 955 and the average weekly attendance 19.1. This work is done on Friday by Dr. Marsden.

The undermentioned diseases were treated in the numbers indicated:—

| | |
|---|---|
| Dental Treatment | 60 |
| High Blood Pressure | 2 |
| Constipation | 25 |
| Albuminuria | 10 |
| Heart Trouble | 10 |
| Leucorrhoea | 8 |
| Hyperacidity | 6 |
| Threatened Miscarriage | 2 |
| Haemorroids | 4 |
| Varicose Veins | 8 |
| Bronchitis | 3 |
| Miscarriage | 2 |
| Premature Birth | 2 |
| Epilepsy | 1 |

*Cases referred to their own doctors:*

| | |
|---|---|
| Doubtful Pregnancy | 2 |
| Contracted Pelvis | 2 |
| Twin Pregnancy | 2 |
| Placenta Praevia | 2 |
| Caesarean Section | 2 |
| Breech | 2 |

## STILL-BIRTHS

### *Neo-Natal Deaths*

Seventeen still-births and 28 neo-natal deaths were investigated.

## MATERNAL DEATHS

Last year the Registrar-General attributed two deaths to other maternal causes.

The death-rate per 1,000 live and still births was 3.2.

## HEALTH VISITORS

The Health Visitors paid 577 first visits, and 12,393 re-visits to children under school age.

## INFANTILE MORTALITY

The infantile mortality rate was 46, as compared with 54 for the great towns, and 46 for England and Wales.

The rate for the County of Glamorgan was 58, for the Glamorgan Urban Districts 59, and for the Glamorgan Rural Districts 53.

Subjoined will be found the rates for some of the larger Glamorgan districts:—

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| Barry ..... | 55 | Mountain Ash ... | 57 |
| Caerphilly ..... | 68 | Neath Borough ... | 47 |
| Maesteg ..... | 55 | Pontypridd ..... | 83 |
| Port Talbot ..... | 62 | Rhondda ..... | 53 |
| Neath Rural ..... | 55 | | |

## INFANT WELFARE CENTRE

Six thousand and forty-six attendances were made at the Centre during the year, the average weekly attendance having been 116. Three hundred and thirty-five diseases and disorders were diagnosed, and the majority were treated at the Centre.

Sixty-nine conditions requiring surgical attention were diagnosed, and either referred to their own doctor or to the orthopaedic surgeon.

Three hundred and sixty-eight tins of Maltoline were given out to children suffering from malnutrition.

## ORTHOPAEDIC TREATMENT

Mr. Haycraft examined 52 new cases and re-examined 23 old ones. Two cases attended the Prince of Wales' Hospital, Cardiff, and surgical appliances were given to six children. Sixty-eight children made 97 attendances at the clinic, and the nurse paid 251 visits to the homes of crippled children.

## ENLARGED TONSILS AND ADENOIDS

Eight children under five years of age were operated on at the General Hospital.

## MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE DENTAL TREATMENT

This work is done on Monday afternoons, and the particulars of the work done are as follows:—

### *EXPECTANT MOTHERS*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of visits to the clinic ... ... ... ... | 120 |
| ,, ,, fillings ... ... ... ... ... ... | 3 |
| ,, ,, extractions ... ... ... ... ... | 85 |
| ,, ,, gas administrations ... ... ... ... | 30 |
| ,, ,, dressings ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |
| ,, ,, impressions taken ... ... ... ... | 10 |

### *INFANTS*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of visits to the clinic ... ... ... ... | 170 |
| ,, ,, fillings ... ... ... ... ... ... | 58 |
| ,, ,, extractions ... ... ... ... ... | 87 |
| ,, ,, gas administrations ... ... ... ... | 60 |
| ,, ,, dressings ... ... ... ... ... | 48 |

## OTORRHOEA

Four patients from the Infant Welfare Centre suffering from running ears were treated on Wednesday and Saturday mornings at the School Clinic.

## BIRTH CONTROL CLINIC

| Date. | Number of New Patients | Number of Re-visits to Clinic |
|---|---|---|
| 9th January ... ... ... | 2 ..... | 10 |
| 13th February ... ... ... | — ..... | 12 |
| 13th March ... ... ... | — ..... | 10 |
| 10th April ... ... ... | — ..... | 12 |
| 15th May ... ... ... | — ..... | 5 |
| 12th June ... ... ... | — ..... | 17 |
| 10th July ... ... ... | — ..... | 13 |
| 14th August ... ... ... | — ..... | 6 |

| | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 11th September | ... | ... | — | ..... | 15 |
| 16th October | ... | ... | — | ..... | 5 |
| 13th November | ... | ... | — | ..... | 12 |
| 11th December | ... | ... | — | ..... | 8 |

## DIPHTHERIA IMMUNISATION

Return from 1st January to the 31st December, 1945:—

| Child Population | Aged under Five Years |
|---|---|
| Number of children in the Authority's area on the 31st December, 1945 ..... | 2920 |

---

*IMMUNISED CHILDREN*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of children who have completed the full course of immunisation between 1st January to the 31st December, 1945 ..... | 503 |
| Number of children who have completed the full course of immunisation prior to the 31st December, 1944 ..... | 1700 |
| | 2203 |
| *Less* 267 children who have attained the age of five years and over ..... | 267 |
| Total ..... | 1936 |

## SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS ACT, 1933

Sixteen licences were issued to butchers authorising them to slaughter animals under the above mentioned Act.

## SLAUGHTERHOUSE

The Slaughterhouse is under the management of the Ministry of Food and serves the Aberdare and Mountain Ash areas. The number of animals slaughtered during the year was 20,901. All the carcases were examined and the details of the inspections made are as indicated below:—

## CARCASES INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Number killed ..... | 775 | 1109 | 1550 | 17146 | 321 |
| Number inspected ..... | 775 | 1109 | 1550 | 17146 | 321 |
| (All diseases, except Tuberculosis): | | | | | |
| Whole carcase condemned .... | — | 66 | 1 | 9 | 1 |
| Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned .... | 100 | 286 | 50 | 1311 | 12 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than T.B. .. | 12.9 | 31.7 | 3.3 | 7.6 | 4.0 |
| (Tuberculosis only): | | | | | |
| Whole carcase condemned .... | 2 | 47 | 1 | — | 3 |
| Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned .... | 25 | 214 | 6 | — | 18 |
| Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ..... | 3.4 | 23.5 | 0.4 | — | 6.5 |

## UNSOUND FOOD

Food of the above description condemned as unfit for human consmuption amounted to 37 tons 8 cwts. 34 lbs. The amount condemned at the slaughterhouse was 79,280 lbs., which consisted of beef 46,975 lbs., beef offal 26,291 lbs., veal 127 lbs., veal offal 167 lbs., mutton 323 lbs., mutton offal 4,339 lbs., pork 692 lbs., and pork offal 366 lbs., and 5,538 lbs. of miscellaneous articles of food were condemned in various premises and stores throughout the district.

## MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATIONS) ORDERS, 1936-1943

Two licences were issued to establishments for the production of pasteurised milk, and four dealers' licences were issued to retailers of pasteurised milk. Thirty-six samples of milk were taken for bacteriological examination. All the samples, with the exception of one, were satisfactory. Four samples of Tuberculin Tested Milk were taken on behalf of the Welsh Board of Health. All were found to be satisfactory.

## EXAMINATION OF MILK FOR TUBERCLE BACILLI

Samples of milk were taken from 15 herds of milching cows in the district for examination for tubercle bacilli. The result of the examination showed no evidence of tubercle bacilli in any of the samples.

## NATIONAL MILK TESTING — ADVISORY SCHEME

One hundred and fifty-six samples of milk were taken on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. The result of the examinations are as indicated below :—

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 113 | Samples | were | placed | in | Category | A |
| 30 | " | " | " | " | " | B |
| 13 | " | " | " | " | " | C |

## MILK AND DAIRIES ORDER, 1926

There are 18 producers of milk and 36 producer-retailers of milk on the register; of these, four are producing T.T. milk and five accredited milk. In addition there are 23 retailers of milk in the district. Four hundred and ten visits were paid to these premises during the year.

Of the milk consumed in the district, approximately 70 per cent. is pasteurised, 15 per cent. is T.T. or accredited, and 15 per cent. ungraded milk.

## WATER SUPPLY

Twenty-nine samples of water were taken for bacteriological examination, and the samples which showed any slight deviation from the normal standard were reported to the water engineer and were attended to. Three samples were also taken for chemical analysis and these showed no evidence of any organic contamination.

## PREMISES USED FOR THE PREPARATION OF HUMAN FOOD

During the year 428 visits were paid to these premises and all were kept in a satisfactory condition.

## BAKEHOUSES AND FACTORIES

There are 24 bakehouses and 75 factories on the registers. Details of the inspections made are as indicated below:—

| | *Inspections* | *Written Notices* |
|---|---|---|
| Factories—with mechanical power | 427 | 2 |
| Factories—without mechanical power | 128 | 5 |

| *Defects found—Particulars* | *Found* | *Remedied* |
|---|---|---|
| Want of cleanliness | 6 | 6 |
| Defective sanitary convenience | 1 | 1 |

## CLOSET ACCOMMODATION

Particulars of the work done under this heading will be found in the tabulated summary of work done by the sanitary inspectors at the end of this report.

## HOUSING

During the year 318 houses were repaired as the result of interviews with owners and the serving of formal and informal notices.

Details of the work done will be found in the summary of work done by the sanitary inspectors.

## RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION ACT, 1919, AND THE INFESTATION ORDER, 1943.

The work on the destruction of rats was continued under the above orders during the year, with the assistance of the rodent operator who commenced duties on the 17th of January, 1944. Practically all the work was carried out in accordance with the directions given by the Rodent Control Branch of the Ministry of Food.

One hundred and sixteen surface treatments were carried out mostly in the town area, and it is estimated that 1,609 rats were destroyed. In addition, 84 rats were killed by dogs on the river banks and ash tip. One sewer treatment was carried out with the assistance of two sewer men and three additional men for a period of three weeks, and it is estimated

that 3,896 rats were destroyed, thus making an estimated total of 5,589 destroyed during the year.

## ERADICATION OF THE BED BUG

One hundred and eighty houses were reported to be infested with bugs. Six of these were Council houses. They were all sprayed with Zaldecide, and it was found necessary in some cases to apply this treatment on several occasions.

## FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1938

The number of samples taken during the year for qualitative analysis was 131, comprising 92 milks and 39 of other foods and drugs.

Of the 131 samples examined, four were found to be adulterated or otherwise unsatisfactory, being three per cent. of the whole.

The report on the adulterated samples and the result on the action taken are as indicated below:—

| Serial No. | Article | Formal or Informal | Nature of adulteration or irregularity | Action taken |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 34A | Fish Paste | Informal | Deficient in meat content, 15 per cent. | No offence committed —since article was canned before present order became operative. |
| A54 | Vinegar | Formal | Deficient in acetic acid five per cent. | Since deficiency was small — resolved to warn retailer. |
| A71 | Milk | Formal | Deficient in milk fat, 15 per cent. | Followed up by an 'Appeal to cow' sample —this was also deficient in milk fat to the extent of seven per cent. |
| 109A | Salmon & Anchovy Paste | Informal | Deficient in meat content, 19 per cent. | No offence committed —since article was canned before present order became operative. |

## SUMMARY OF WORK DONE BY THE SANITARY INSPECTORS DURING THE YEAR

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of houses and premises inspected ... ... | 3632 |
| Number of houses and premises re-visited ... ... | 5690 |
| Number of notices served—preliminary ... ... | 418 |

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of notices served—statutory | 207 |
| Number of houses repaired | 318 |
| Drains cleansed and repaired | 137 |
| Closets cleansed or repaired | 100 |
| Flushing tanks renewed | 32 |
| New closets erected to existing buildings | 12 |
| Yards paved or repaired | 126 |
| Defective house roofs repaired | 304 |
| Defective walls repaired | 275 |
| Defective chimneys repaired | 95 |
| Defective ceilings repaired | 114 |
| Defective floors repaired | 167 |
| Defective doors repaired or renewed | 98 |
| Defective windows repaired or renewed | 159 |
| Defective fire-places repaired or renewed | 155 |
| Defective ovens renewed | 44 |
| New eaves-gutters and down pipes fixed | 228 |
| Accumulations of refuse removed | 204 |
| Other nuisances abated | 36 |
| Number of milk samples taken for examination | 196 |
| Number of water samples taken for examination | 32 |
| Number of samples taken for Food and Drugs | 131 |
| Number of rat-infested premises inspected | 116 |
| Number of houses infested with vermin inspected | 188 |
| Number of infectious disease cases investigated | 227 |

## *DISINFECTION*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of houses fumigated after infectious disease | 199 |
| Number of articles disinfected by steam | 2290 |
| Number of articles destroyed | 11 |

## *DRAIN TESTING*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of old drains tested | 50 |
| Number found defective | 48 |
| Number of drains relaid | 48 |

## *FACTORIES*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number on Register | 75 |
| Number of outworkers | Nil |
| Number of visits of inspection | 427 |
| Defects remedied | 5 |

## *BAKEHOUSES*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number on Register ... ... ... ... ... ... | 24 |
| Number of visits of inspection ... ... ... ... | 128 |
| Defects remedied ... ... ... ... ... ... | 2 |

## *DAIRIES, COWSHEDS AND MILKSHOPS*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number on Register ... ... ... ... ... ... | 72 |
| Number of visits of inspection ... ... ... ... | 410 |
| Defects remedied ... ... ... ... ... ... | 6 |

## *SLAUGHTERHOUSES*

| | |
|---|---|
| Number of animals slaughtered ... ... ... ... | 20,901 |
| Number of carcases inspected ... ... ... ... | 20,901 |
| Meat condemned at Slaughterhouses ... ... (lbs.) | 79,280 |
| Other Foods ... ... ... ... ... ... (lbs.) | 5,538 |

JOHN THOMAS,

*Senior Sanitary Inspector*